

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MX

SUBJ: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

REF: MEXICO 11419

1. AT CLOSING CEREMONY FOR REGULAR SESSION OF MEXICAN CONGRESS DECEMBER 30, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DELIVERED AN EXTEMPORANEOUS ADDRESS BEFORE READING BRIEF PREPARED STATEMENT. HIS IMPROMPTU REMARKS INCLUDED AN EMOTIONAL PASSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WHICH IS QUOTED IN PERTINENT PORTION BELOW. (NOTE: ECHEVERRIA'S EXTEMPORANEOUS STYLE AT TIMES APPROACHES INCOHERENCE. INFORMAL TRANSLATION ATTEMPTS TO FOLLOW HIS MEANING AS WE PERCEIVE IT.)

2. A. "IN A WORLD IN CRISIS WE ARE FIGHTING TO DEFEND THE VALUES OF MEXICAN CULTURE AND ECONOMY. IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT WE CAN FIGHT AND ALWAYS EXPLAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR FIGHT. I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR AT THIS TIME THAT IN THIS STRUGGLE THERE WILL CERTAINLY NEVER BE ANY NEED TO ASK PARDON FOR ANYTHING; THAT WE ARE ALWAYS PREPARED TO EXPLAIN AND THAT WE DON'T WANT ANYONE... (TO DRAW ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS) BY SELECTING THE TERMS OF OUR EXPRESSIONS; THAT WE WILL NOT ASK PARDON OBVIOUSLY FOR HAVING STRUGGLED, FOR

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HAVING FREED THE PEASANTS OF THE MEXICALI VALLEY OF (THE

PROBLEM OF) SALINITY WHICH THEY HAD UNJUSTLY SUFFERED FROM THE SALINITY OF THE COLORADO RIVER; THAT NOBODY IN MEXICO SHOULD HAVE THE IDEA OF ASKING PARDON BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT IN 1971, PUTTING ASIDE STRONG INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES, WENT TO STRUGGLE FOR THE RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED NATIONS OF THAT GREAT NATION, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WHICH CONTAINS ONE-FOURTH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION; THAT NO ONE IN MEXICO SHOULD THINK OF MAKING EXCUSES BECAUSE WE PROPOSED THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR LATIN AMERICA (SELA) SO THAT THE DIS-UNITED COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH SHOULD JOIN IN DEFENSE OF THEIR INTERESTS; AND THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE TROUBLED BECAUSE WE PROPOSED THE ALREADY-BEING-ORGANIZED CARIBBEAN FLEET SO THAT THE COASTAL STATES -- MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA AND THE ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN -- BIG AND SMALL SHOULD DISPOSE OF A FLEET TO PREVENT THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS AND CARGO BY FOREIGN VESSELS. AND THAT, FAR FROM ASKING PARDON, WE WILL ALWAYS BE PROUD AT HAVING PROPOSED THE APPROVAL OF A WORLD FLAG FOR THE MEDIUM AND SMALL COUNTRIES WHICH WISH TO PROGRESS WITHOUT LOSING THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND AT THE UNDERTAKING OF A BATTLE AND BECAUSE EVERY DAY WE ARE TRIUMPHING IN THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THAT BATTLE FLAG WHICH IS THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES."

B. "LET IT BE QUOTE CLEAR THEN THAT TO NO MEXICAN, NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY HE MAY HAVE BEEN IN RECENT DAYS -- GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING -- FROM HIS COUNTRY, WOULD IT OCCUR TO CONFUSE A COURTEOUS EXPLANATION TO A PEOPLE MULTISECULARLY (SIC) PERSECUTED WITH SOME DIFFERENT ATTITUDE, MANIPULATED BY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA; AND THAT ON THIS SUBJECT, LINKED ON THE ONE HAND TO OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND ON THE OTHER TO THE CAUSE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE BASED ON HIGH MORAL PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN COEXISTENCE, ANY MEXICAN WOULD RATHER DIE THAN TO ASK PARDON (INCLUDING) IN THE FIRST PLACE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC...."

C. "BECAUSE OF OUR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE FACED THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY -- IN THE LAST CENTURY AND SO FAR IN THIS ONE -- BECAUSE OF EXPANSIONIST TENDENCIES, BECAUSE OF THE LUST FOR WORLD POWER OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GREAT POWERS, THE ESSENCE OF OUR NATIONAL PATRIMONY IN THE FIELD OF CIVIC MORALITY AND PRACTICAL POLITICS SHOULD BE THE STRUGGLE ON ALL FRONTS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THAT WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT AND EVERY SACRIFICE AND USE OUR IMAGINATION IN ORDER NOT TO SHUT OURSELVES INTO ROUTINE AND TRADITIONAL LIMITS BUT RATHER THAT WE SHOULD COME FORTH WITH SOME OF THAT BOLDNESS AND COURAGE OF CUAUHEMOC TO DEFEND OUR BEST NATIONAL

INTERESTS WITH FORESIGHT."

3. COMMENT: ECHEVERRIA'S ILLUSIONS TO ASKING PARDON CAN ONLY RELATE TO PRESS REPORTS FOLLOWING RABASA'S VISIT TO ISRAEL THAT MEXICO HAD BEEN "PARDONED" BY THE ISRAELIS WITH RESPECT TO "MISUNDERSTANDINGS" OVER THE "ZIONISM IS RACISM" ISSUE. RABASA, UPON HIS RETURN TO MEXICO, WAS ASKED BY REPORTERS ABOUT THIS STATEMENT AND, THOUGH HE ANGRILY CHARGED THAT HIS WORDS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, HE NEVER DENIED THAT HE HAD USED THE TERM. FROM ECHEVERRIA'S STATEMENT CITED ABOVE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HE WAS SHARPLY STUNNED, HIS MACHISMO OFFENDED BY THE THOUGHT OF MEXICO'S ASKING PARDON, BY THE PRESS TREATMENT OF THIS MATTER, AND BY SHARP CRITICISM IN THE MEXICAN PRESS OF RABASA'S REPORTED STATEMENT. THE OBVIOUS EMOTION IN ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH SUGGESTS, AS MANY OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED, THAT WHATEVER THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF RABASA'S RESIGNATION, THE BASIC CAUSE PROBABLY RELATES MOST DIRECTLY TO THE ZIONISM ISSUE.

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